(c) whether such load-shedding in old Delhi areas has been for days together;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether no advance announcement through media for such load-shedding has ever been made by the D.E.S.U.; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons for such lapse and what are the relevant rules for resorting to such load-shedding without prior intimation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) Normally, there is no difficulty in meeting the power requirements in Delhi. However, to bridge the gap between the demand and availability of power, which had increased due to extreme weather conditions and the delayed monsoon this year in many parts of the northern region, rotational load-shedding for one hour in different parts of Delhi, including old Delhi, had been enforced w.e.f. 3-6-1991. In addition, the peak period restrictions on industries are already in force. The position has, however, eased after 10.7.1991 due to rainfall and the fall in the temperature.

(e) and (f) The load-sheding schedule was published by DESU in leading news papers in the first week of June, 1991 for the information of the public. However, sometimes unscheduled load-shedding has also to be carried out in the interest of system parameters, in the event of low voltage and frequency conditions in the Northern Grid.

Foreign investment in Oil Sector

1101. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to involve foreigners and NRIs in investments in oil sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof with background for such move;

(c) whether Government have drawn up any scheme for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) Government have decided to invite international and domestic companies, including NRIs, in the Fourth Round of bidding for exploration for oil and gas.

Increase in the price of crude oil

1102. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has demanded an increase of 50 per cent in the price of domestic crude oil;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the increase in the price of domestic crude oil will directly affect the prices of petroleum products; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to contain the prise rise of oil?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) to (d) Recommendations of the Oil Price Review Committee (OPRC) which cover, *inter alia*, the issue of domestic crude oil price are under examination of the Government.

Impact of devaluation on the Import of Petroleum Products

1103. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMAT SATYA BAHIN:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: